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Report of the Economic and Social Council for 2002*

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* The present report is a preliminary version of those sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council relating to the organizational and resumed organizational sessions for 2002 and the substantive session of 2002. The section relating to the resumed substantive session will be issued as an addendum to the present report. The entire report will be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/57/3/Rev.1).

** Part two of this preliminary version of the report of the Council, containing chaps. IV-IX and annexes I and III, will be issued separately in document A/57/3 (Part II). The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at the organizational and resumed organizational sessions for 2002 and the substantive session of 2002 are being issued initially in documents E/2002/INF/2 and Add.1 and 2. Those adopted at the resumed substantive session will be issued in document E/2002/INF/2/Add.3. The resolutions and decisions will be issued in final form as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 1* (E/2002/99).

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by or brought to the attention of the General Assembly

In 2002, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions and decisions that call for action by the General Assembly. The relevant paragraphs of those resolutions and decisions are summarized below.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

By decision 2002/288, the Council recommended that the General Assembly take a decision at its fifty-seventh session on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 61 to 64 States.

The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development

Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment submitted by the President of the Council on the basis of informal consultations

The Council adopted the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment which stressed the pivotal role of the Council in maintaining the focus on implementation and financing for human resource development as part of its responsibilities in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, and called upon the Council to mobilize and promote a coordinated action by the United Nations system for implementing the declaration, which was being submitted to the General Assembly as a contribution to the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit.

Strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration

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The Council adopted the agreed conclusions 2002/1 of its coordination segment and forwarded those agreed conclusions to the General Assembly for its appropriate action, stressing therein the importance of a more effective use of the existing structure, that is to say, the Assembly, and the Council and its subsidiary machinery, for a coordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of the commitments agreed at the Millennium Summit and other major United Nations conferences and summits, so as to avoid overlap and redundancy and enhance effectiveness of actions at all levels. The Council also agreed that the items considered in its general segment should be streamlined, in particular by transmitting to the Assembly items more appropriately considered by the Assembly and avoiding addressing the same issues in more than one segment, unless that was specifically decided. The Council stated that, at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2003, it would benefit from the Assembly's discussion on strengthening the organization.

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

By resolution 2002/32, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue progress on the directories referred to in General Assembly resolution

56/103 of 14 December 2001 and to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to that resolution in his next report to the Council and the Assembly on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

Coordination, programme and other questions

International Conference on Financing for Development

By resolution 2002/34, the Council affirmed its readiness to report to the General Assembly, and to provide inputs to the biennial Assembly high-level dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership, on all efforts made by the Council in support of the Monterrey process, including the results of its annual spring meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization.

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

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By resolution 2002/31, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution.

Social and human rights questions: social development

Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

By resolution 2002/6, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

Social and human rights questions: crime prevention and criminal justice

International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

By resolution 2002/8, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

High-level political conference for the purpose of signing the United Nations convention against corruption

By resolution 2002/9, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

Follow-up to the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century

By resolution 2002/10, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

Preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

By resolution 2002/11, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

Social and human rights questions: human rights

Draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

By resolution 2002/27, having adopted the draft optional protocol contained in the annex to resolution 2002/33 of the Commission on Human Rights, the Council recommended to the General Assembly that it adopt and open for signature, ratification and accession as early as possible the optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

By decision 2002/243, having approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/8 to request the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, acting as a monitoring mechanism, to follow up the implementation of the recommendations appearing in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as those appearing in the report of the Inquiry Commission established pursuant to Commission resolution S-5/1 of 19 October 2000, the Council approved the request to the Special Rapporteur to submit reports thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Human rights situation of Lebanese detainees in Israel

By decision 2002/244, having endorsed the request of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/10 to the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel and call upon it to comply with the resolution's provisions, the Council endorsed the request to the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the results of his efforts in this regard.

Situation of human rights in Burundi

By decision 2002/246, having approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/12 to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur by one year, the Council approved the request to the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report on the human rights situation in Burundi to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

By decision 2002/248, the Council: (a) having endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/14 to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a further year, endorsed the request to the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session; and (b) having endorsed the request in the same resolution to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances to carry out a joint mission to investigate all massacres carried out in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to bringing to justice those responsible, endorsed the request to them to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Situation of human rights in Iraq

By decision 2002/249, having endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/15 to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further year, the Council endorsed the request to the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Situation of human rights in the Sudan

By decision 2002/250, having endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/16 to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan for a further year, the Council endorsed the request to the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

By decision 2002/252, having endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/19 to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan for one year, the Council endorsed the request to the Special Rapporteur to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Situation of human rights in Sierra Leone

By decision 2002/253, the Council endorsed the request of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/20 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone, inter alia, with reference to reports from the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

The right to food

By decision 2002/255, the Council approved the request of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/25 to the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to submit a preliminary report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

By decision 2002/260, the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/38 to invite the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the overall trends and developments with regard to his mandate.

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

By decision 2002/261, the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/40 to request the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Human rights of persons with disabilities

By decision 2002/265, having endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/61 to invite all special rapporteurs, in carrying out their mandates, to take into account the situation and human rights of persons with disabilities, the Council endorsed the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the progress of efforts to ensure the full recognition and enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities.

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

By decision 2002/269, having endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/67 to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar for a further year, the Council endorsed the request to the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Situation of human rights in East Timor

By decision 2002/283, having taken note of the statement made by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights at its 48th meeting, and agreed on by consensus by the Commission (see chap. IX of the report of the Commission, E/2002/23 (Part II)), the Council approved the Commission's request to the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the decision.

Social and human rights questions: Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

By resolution 2002/28, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in connection with draft decisions I to IV recommended by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its first session for adoption by the Council: (a) to appoint a secretariat unit, in accordance with the budget procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, to assist the Forum in carrying out its mandate, as defined in paragraph 2 of Council resolution 2000/22; and (b) to establish a voluntary fund for the Forum for the purpose of funding the implementation of recommendations made by the Forum through the

Council, in line with paragraph 2 (a) of its resolution 2000/22, as well as funding activities under its mandate, as defined in paragraph 2 (b) and paragraph 2 (c) of the same resolution.

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

By decision 2002/287, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session concerning the provision of adequate resources to support the secretariat unit of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Chapter II
Special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

1. In accordance with paragraph 88 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization at its 3rd meeting, on 22 April 2002 (for the proceedings, see E/2002/SR.3). It had before it a note by the Secretary-General entitled "Dialogue on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development and of the meetings of the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financing Committee" (E/2002/13).

2. The President of the Council made an introductory statement.

3. The Secretary-General addressed the meeting.

4. The President introduced the following panellists who made presentations: Trevor Manuel, Minister of Finance of South Africa and Chairperson of the Development Committee; Eduardo Aninat, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF); and Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape, Head of the Office of the Presidency for Public Policies, Mexico.

5. After the presentations, the Council suspended its meeting and moved to round tables I and II.

6. Round table I was chaired by the Senior Vice-President of the Council, Gert Rosenthal (Guatemala), and the panel participants were the Chairperson of the Development Committee, the Special Representative of IMF to the United Nations, the Managing Director of the World Bank, the Senior Adviser of the World Trade Organization and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

7. The Minister of Finance of Belgium and Chairperson of the Group of 10 was the lead discussant.

8. Round table II was chaired by the Vice-President of the Council, Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo (South Africa), and the panel participants were the Head of the Office of the Presidency for Public Policies, Mexico, the Deputy Managing Director of IMF, the Vice-President of the World Bank and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

9. The Chairperson of the Group of 24 was the lead discussant.

10. The following was the overall theme to be discussed in both round tables:

> Dialogue on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development and of the meetings of the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financial Committee.

11. After the conclusion of the two round tables, the Council resumed its 3rd meeting and the Senior Vice-President of the Council and the Vice-President of the Council, Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo (South Africa), reported on the discussions of round tables I and II, respectively.

12. The representative of the Netherlands made a statement.

13. The Managing Director of IMF, the Managing Director of the World Bank and the Senior Adviser of the World Trade Organization made concluding statements.

14. The President of the Council made concluding remarks.

15. The Secretariat subsequently circulated for information the President's summary of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (E/2002/67). The text read as follows:

"I. Background

"1. The General Assembly, in annex I, paragraph 88, of its resolution 50/227 on revitalizing the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, recommended that the Economic and Social Council periodically schedule a high-level special meeting following the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions. As a result, starting in 1998, the Council has held high-level special meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions annually.

"2. The fifth special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization was held on 22 April 2002. The theme of the meeting was: "Dialogue on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development and of the meetings of the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financial Committee". The Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[1] adopted in March 2002, had assigned a specific role to these meetings in the follow-up process. This meeting, held just one month after the Conference, offered the first opportunity to lay down the foundation for "staying engaged" as called for in the Monterrey Consensus. The event brought together in the Council policy makers in the areas of finance and monetary issues, development cooperation and foreign affairs, as well as representatives of civil society and the private sector.

"3. The President of the Council chaired the meeting. The Secretary-General made an opening statement. This was followed by the statements of Trevor Manuel, Chairperson of the Development Committee and Minister of Finance of South Africa, Eduardo Aninat, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, and Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape, Head of the Office of the Presidency for Public Policies of Mexico. To facilitate an interactive debate, the meeting broke up into two simultaneous round tables for part of the event, chaired by Gert Rosenthal, Ambassador of Guatemala, and Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo, Ambassador of South Africa, Vice-Presidents of the Council. At the resumed plenary meeting, after a brief summary by the two round-table chairpersons, Mr. Aninat, Shengman Zhang, Managing Director, World Bank, and Nacer Benjelloun-Touimi, Senior Adviser, World Trade Organization, made concluding comments. A background note by the Secretary-General on the dialogue on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development and of the meetings of the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financial Committee (E/2002/13) was submitted to facilitate the discussion.

"4. The present document provides a synopsis of the meeting. It summarizes the salient points and main aspects of the statements that were made and the exchanges of views that took place. The purpose of this summary is to contribute to the preparation of future meetings and to encourage deeper discussion of the specific proposals reflected.

"II. Development and the world economic situation: current issues

"5. In the view of most participants, global economic prospects were improving markedly. Yet it was pointed out that many questions remained regarding the strength of the recovery, its breadth across regions and its sustainability. There also appeared to be agreement that a measure of caution was necessary since non-oil commodity prices were still depressed, affecting prospects in many developing countries; the Japanese economy remained weak; large imbalances among advanced economies persisted; and the conflict in the Middle East was fuelling increasing uncertainties.

"6. According to the International Monetary and Financial Committee, which had met only two days before, the challenge for policy makers now was to help foster the recovery that was under way and try to ensure that all regions benefited. In this regard, developed and developing countries were expected to pursue structural and macroeconomic policies to improve economic flexibility and enhance resilience. Such policies would also contribute to reducing the persistent imbalances among the more advanced countries.

"7. Many participants stressed that in the medium to long term, international trade held the key for rapid development in most developing countries, for raising incomes and for attaining the millennium development goal of halving poverty by 2015 (see A/56/326, annex, target 1). An open, rule-based, equitable and transparent international trade system was necessary. The prospect of a true development round had

emerged at Doha, but concrete actions could be taken even before the new round takes place. The "Everything but arms" initiative undertaken by the European Union (EU) to benefit least developed countries had significantly improved trade prospects for these countries. Many participants argued that developed countries should further reduce, without delay, trade barriers and trade distorting subsidies affecting other countries. It was felt that such measures would increase market access and promote economic growth in a large number of developing and transition countries.

"8. In many African countries, widespread poverty, the prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and the risks of famine were central issues. They had to be tackled by major efforts from the countries themselves with the assistance of the international community. Many delegations stressed that the New Partnership for Africa's Development constituted an important step forward. The Partnership provided a comprehensive strategy for economic and social development. It had been given decisive support in the Monterrey Consensus (para. 6) and had received strong endorsement from the Development Committee the previous day.

"9. Some of the principles that were highlighted included country ownership, together with the joint cooperative efforts of IMF and the World Bank and other partners to implement the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) approach. It was felt that these provided an opportunity to improve the situation and set the foundations for long-term development in low-income countries. In this endeavour, the support of the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) at IMF could prove critical for many African countries, as well as for other low-income developing countries. There was widespread agreement that education was the most decisive factor in the long term to achieve sustainable development. Accordingly, it should be a top priority in a country's national strategy. The previous day, the Development Committee had strongly endorsed an action plan presented by the World Bank to help make primary education a reality for all children by 2015 and accelerate the process. The Committee had also called upon the relevant stakeholders to strengthen their efforts to achieve the millennium development goal on gender equality in primary and secondary education by 2005 (see A/56/326, annex, target 4).

"10. Progress achieved by the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative had been tempered, according to several participants, by the small number of countries that had reached the completion point. In some cases, the question of debt sustainability of countries receiving debt relief remained open. It was noted that more flexibility in the application of the framework, as well as all creditors' contributing a fair share of the relief, would be needed to further progress in the HIPC Initiative. The Development Committee intended to review the Initiative and the question of sustainability at the fall meeting. Regarding the debt of middle-income countries, IMF had been considering approaches to sovereign debt restructuring to allow for more timely and equitable resolution of debt problems. Several participants welcomed efforts in this area.

"11. With respect to crisis prevention, which remains a top priority for the Fund, the institution was focusing its work on strengthened surveillance in all countries, financial sector monitoring, fostering transparency and the adoption of standards and codes. All these tasks were particularly important at a time when the world economy was beset by heightened uncertainties.

"III. The financing for development process and the Monterrey Consensus

"12. Participants welcomed the approach to international policy-making established in the financing for development process as it signalled an important new form of engagement. Greater coordination and increased cooperation among ministries of finance, trade, foreign affairs and development cooperation had emerged as a key facet of the process. Just as important was the much increased and effective cooperation among the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization.

The participation of the private sector and civil society in the process had also contributed significantly to enriching the outcome.

"13. The Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the ministerial and summit levels the previous month, was viewed as a major step forward. It had received full endorsement by the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee over the prior two days. The policies, instruments and reforms as agreed in the Monterrey Consensus were key to the attainment of the millennium development goals. One significant and tangible immediate achievement was the new pledges by EU and the United States of America, which would lead to a turnaround in aggregate official development assistance (ODA) trends.

"14. The Monterrey Consensus constituted a substantive, holistic and integrated platform on which new and constructive actions could be built in the future. Coherence of the international monetary, financial and trade systems was a major theme, as was the increased participation of developing countries in global economic policy-making. Progress was important on all these fronts.

"15. The nature of the process leading to Monterrey and the "spirit of Monterrey" had contributed to a successful conference in March 2002. It was important to preserve the approach in the critical task beginning now: the implementation stage. Lessons of that approach were also relevant for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held soon (26 August-4 September 2002) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Agreement achieved in November 2001 at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha, and the success of the International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey had greatly advanced the international agenda. The World Summit on Sustainable Development offered an additional opportunity for further progress, inter alia, in the social and environmental areas. If the potential of the Summit did indeed materialize at Johannesburg, the international community would take a major and decisive step towards the full realization of the sustainable development and poverty eradication goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.[2]

"IV. Implementing the Monterrey Consensus

"16. According to many participants, the main challenge now was to translate the positive spirit that had led to the Monterrey Consensus into meaningful implementation. A dynamic implementation process should continue to build bridges among global development, finance and trade deliberations. Several delegates stated that it was necessary to move from principles to concrete action. The Monterrey Consensus was based on partnership with shared responsibilities and mutual accountability, as well as an inclusive approach that needed to be carried forward. It was, in the view of one participant, "a performance contract".

"17. It was pointed out that implementation of the Monterrey Consensus required both effective national and international policies and operational effectiveness of economic cooperation strategies and programmes. Sound national policies in developing countries should be based on country ownership. Several participants voiced concern that capacity constraints could severely limit developing countries' ability to assume ownership and effectively implement programmes and policies. In this regard, speakers stressed that increased technical assistance for capacity-building in developing countries was necessary, along with increased market access in developed countries, and sufficient and well-coordinated external support.

"18. Coherence and coordination between recipient and donor countries, among donor countries and between donors and multilateral financial institutions in support of national strategies were identified as important steps in strengthening ownership of policies and harmonization of procedures of development assistance. It was essential to streamline requirements and improve coordination of disbursement and delivery mechanisms in order to minimize the burden of compliance on the recipient countries, moving from conditionality to partnership and thus to more flexible approaches.

In this context, a number of speakers highlighted the PRSP approach based on strong national ownership, broad-based participation in policy design and monitoring, and strengthened national and international partnerships. Regional initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, among Governments, the private sector, civil society and development partners were felt to hold great potential. At the same time, several speakers stressed that care should be taken not to duplicate processes that were already taking place elsewhere.

"19. Improved policy coherence and enhanced cooperation at the intergovernmental level were also seen as an important element in effective implementation. Enhanced cooperation among the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, at both intergovernmental and secretariat levels, in the financing for development process should continue and be strengthened in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. The increasing engagement of the World Trade Organization was considered particularly important. At the international level, the Council was deemed a natural forum for such a follow-up, in view of its capacity to involve all development stakeholders, including the various United Nations funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, representatives from civil society and the business sector.

"20. Participants emphasized the need to develop benchmarks and monitor progress in development programmes at the national, regional and international levels, involving all relevant actors. It was underlined that measurable results were essential and strategies had to stress outcomes rather than processes. This was particularly important for effective social programmes and policies focusing on the poor. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was seen as playing a major role in capacity-building and monitoring of progress in implementation at the country level.

"21. All development goals needed to be matched with clear and measurable programmes of action that made the term "aid effectiveness" meaningful. These included financial estimates and commitments, and effective and sufficiently funded capacity-building programmes. In this regard, several participants stressed that it was essential to consider how the level of ODA of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) could be reached. Others noted that some of the broad commitments made at Monterrey needed to be finalized, especially the thirteenth replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) and the question of grants versus loans.

"22. Studies on innovative sources of finance remained important. Several participants called for the swift implementation of the Fourth Amendment of the IMF Articles of Agreement on the special one-time allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs) and urged those countries that had not done so to ratify promptly the Fourth Amendment. They also encouraged developed countries to donate the increase in their allotment to an international development fund.

"V. Specific proposals

"23. The need to work out mechanisms for implementation of the commitments agreed in Monterrey was emphasized by many speakers. While no agreements were reached — nor, indeed, sought — a number of specific proposals were put forward by individual participants, in particular regarding modalities to make the outcome of the future spring meetings of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization more effective and results-oriented.

"24. In this regard, there was broad recognition that future joint meetings would need to be intensively prepared by exchanges among the Council and the Boards of IMF, World Bank and the World Trade Organization and among the related secretariats. One specific proposal was to set up a contact group, somewhat akin to the 15-member Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development. A series of working groups at the intergovernmental level could be another option. Many participants stressed that the preparatory exchanges should identify issues to be addressed in future meetings.

"25. Another proposal was for future meetings to focus on the follow-up of the Monterrey Conference, covering two of the six themes of financing for development each year, on the basis of reports on implementation to be provided before the annual spring meeting by all relevant stakeholders. A review of institutional cooperation in specific areas was suggested as one element for future consideration. Other issues suggested for consideration included policy coherence and global economic governance, education, health, the Doha Developmental Agenda, the international financial architecture, capacity-building, ODA, foreign direct investment (FDI) and external debt.

"26. To ensure the coherence of agendas at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, it was further stated that a coordinating mechanism should be considered through which the secretariats would work together. The United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization could prepare joint reports on specific and sectoral issues. The inclusive approach of Monterrey — engaging the participation of different ministries and civil society and the business sector — should be kept in mind with a view to devising modalities to adopt such an approach.

"27. Some speakers suggested that the follow-up process should include a plan of action, or a "road map", which would specify various performance benchmarks and indicators for all relevant stakeholders and include a time frame for implementation. Some speakers also regarded the Council's meeting as being too short and needing a full day. Others mentioned that mechanisms for the monitoring of implementation outcomes for the millennium development goals in developing and transition countries should be promptly put in place, with a central role given to UNDP at the country level. Monitoring at the regional level was also deemed to be important and the establishment of peer reviews at this level was advocated.

"28. One delegation reiterated the desirability of creating an economic security council, whose functions would include ensuring a proper management of common public goods."

Notes

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Chapter III
High-level segment

The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development

1. The high-level segment of the substantive session of 2002 of the Council was held at its 6th to 11th meetings, from 1 to 3 July 2002 (for the proceedings, see E/2002/SR.6-11). In accordance with Council decision 2001/299 of 26 July 2001, the theme of the high-level segment was "The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development" (agenda item 2). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development (E/2002/46);

(b) *World Economic and Social Survey, 2002* (E/2002/50 (Chapter I));

(c) Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 2002 (E/2002/73);

(d) Extract of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourth session (E/2002/L.9);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on the preparations for the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 2002 (E/2002/CRP.2).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 1 July, the President of the Council declared open the substantive session of 2002.

3. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Council.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America addressed the Council.

Policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation with heads of financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system

5. At its 6th meeting, on 1 July, the Council held a policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation with heads of financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system. At the same meeting, statements were made by the panellists, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF); the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the Managing Director of the World Bank; and the Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization. Also at the 6th meeting, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (also on behalf of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)) made a statement.

6. At the same meeting, during the exchange of views, the representatives of Zimbabwe, the Gambia, Finland, the Russian Federation, Mexico, Pakistan, Suriname, Guatemala, Malaysia, Nigeria, Ghana, Argentina and Bolivia made statements. Also at the 6th meeting, the representatives of IMF, the World Bank, UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization responded to queries raised.

Conclusion of the preparatory round tables on education, development, health and development and human resources development for the millennium development goals: synergies between health and education

7. The Council opened its 7th meeting, on 1 July, with an address by the Director-General of the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

8. At the same meeting, the Council continued its consideration of the theme of the high-level segment with the policy dialogue and discussion and heard statements on the conclusion of the preparatory round tables on education, development, health and development and human resources development for the millennium development goals: synergies between health and education, by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; and Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, who acted as Moderator.

9. Also at the 7th meeting, statements were also heard by the following presenters: the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP); the Rector of the United Nations University (UNU); the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS). The representative of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) reported on the NGO Forum.

High-level round tables

10. At its 7th meeting, on 1 July, the Council reconvened in four round tables for an interactive dialogue among participants. Each of the round tables was invited to address the themes chosen for the round tables. The composition of the round tables are described below.

Round table A: Progress towards millennium development goals for human resources development in Africa

11. The Moderator and Director of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Lincoln C. Chen, opened the round table. The Co-Chairpersons, P. Kwesi Nduom, Minister for Economic Planning and Regional Integration of Ghana, and Jan Vandemoortele, Group Leader for Social Development of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), initiated the dialogue.

12. An interactive dialogue ensued during which interventions were made by the following participants: the representatives of Italy, the Russian Federation, Japan, Nigeria, the United States of America, China, Finland and the Netherlands; the observer for Belgium; the representatives of IMF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNAIDS and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); and the representative of the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Round table B: Partnerships for human resources development: what role for development cooperation, including South-South cooperation, city-city cooperation, private sector and non-governmental organizations?

13. The round table was moderated by the Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA. The Co-Chairpersons, Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Minister for Education of the Gambia, and Peter Hansen, Commissioner-General, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, initiated the dialogue.

14. Statements were made by the representatives of Bhutan, El Salvador, the United States of America, Nepal and Bangladesh. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and UNU.

15. Statements were made by the representatives of the Radin Institute for Family Health Education and Promotion and Association de volontaires pour le service international, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.

16. The representative of Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, also made a statement.

17. The Co-Chairpersons made concluding remarks.

Round table C: Strengthening institutional capabilities for sustainable development (a contribution to Johannesburg)

18. The Moderator and Director General of UNIDO opened the round table.

19. The Co-Chairpersons, Jacobus Richelle, Director-General for Development of the European Commission, and G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), initiated the dialogue.

20. An interactive dialogue ensued during which interventions were made by the participants: the representatives of Germany, the United States of America, Suriname, Brazil, Pakistan and South Africa; the observers for Venezuela (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Switzerland; the representative of ECE; the representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; and the representative of the International Institute for Sustainable Future.

Round table D: Policy coherence and financing human resources development

21. The Moderator and Executive Director for Sustainable Development and Healthy Environment, World Health Organization (WHO), opened the round table.

22. The Co-Chairpersons, Julio Frenk Mora, Minister of Health of Mexico, and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, initiated the dialogue.

23. An interactive dialogue ensued during which interventions were made by the following participants: the representatives of Burkina Faso, Egypt, the United States of America, Romania, Argentina, Australia, Malta and Qatar; the observer for Bolivia; the representative of ILO; and the representative of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council.

24. At its resumed 7th meeting, on 1 July, the Council heard concluding remarks and recommendations by the Co-Chairpersons of the round tables: Mr. Nduom, Mrs. Ndong-Jatta, Mr. Richelle and Dr. Frenk Mora. The President of the Council closed the discussion.

Resumed consideration of the theme of the high-level segment

25. At its 8th meeting, on 2 July, the Council resumed consideration of the item and heard introductory statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of UNAIDS.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by Zeljka Antunovic, Vice Prime Minister of Croatia; Carsten Staur, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (on behalf of the European Union (EU), the Central and Eastern European countries associated with EU (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), the other associated countries (Cyprus and Turkey) and the European Free Trade Association country member of the European Economic Area (Liechtenstein)); Dr. Frenk Mora; Juli Minoves-Triquel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra; Mr. Nduom; Julio César Ovando Cárdenas, Vice-Minister of Public Health and Social Assistance of Guatemala; Mohammad Javad Zarif, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Masahiro Imamura, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan; Alfredo Luigi Mantica, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy; U. V. Fedotov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; Abelardo Moreno, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba; Radu Mircea Damian, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Research of Romania; and Olav Kjorven, Deputy Minister of International Development of Norway.

27. Also at the 8th meeting, the representatives of UNFPA and the European Community made statements.

28. At the same meeting, with the agreement of the Council, the representative of the Common Fund for Commodities, an intergovernmental organization, made a statement.

29. At its 9th meeting, on 2 July, the Council resumed consideration of the item and heard statements by: Babalola Borishade, Minister of Education of Nigeria; Mrs. Ndong-Jatta; Hanno Rumpf, Permanent Secretary, National Planning Commission of Namibia; Gun-Britt Andersson, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden; Sun Joun-yung, Permanent

Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations; Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations; Wang Yingfan, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations; Sichan Siv, Ambassador and Representative of the United States of America to the Council; Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations; Bob F. Jalang'o, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations; Oswaldo de Rivero, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations; Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations; and Murari Raj Sharma, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations.

30. At the same meeting, the representative of WHO made a statement.

31. At the 10th meeting, on 3 July, statements were made by Maria Eugenia Brizuela de Avila, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador; Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister in the Department of the Prime Minister of Malaysia; Tom Butime, MP, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Uganda; Geoffrey Raby, First Assistant Secretary of the International Organizations and Legal Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra, Australia; Fernando Muñoz, Acting Minister of Health of Chile; Walter Fust, Director of Development and Cooperation Management, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland; C. Pigot, Special Adviser of the President of Suriname; Valery P. Kuchinsky, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations; Gelson Fonseca, Jr., Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations; Vijay K. Nambiar, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations; Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations; Mohamed Bennouna, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations; Eladio Loizaga, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations; Sergei S. Ling, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations; Om Pradhan, Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations; Paul Heinbecker, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations; Leutlwetse Mmualefe, Acting Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations; María Elena Chassoul, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations; and Darmansjah Djumala, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations.

32. At the same meeting, the Chairmen of the Inter-State Committee of CIS and the Committee for Development Policy made statements.

33. Also at the 10th meeting, Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, made a statement.

34. At the 11th meeting on 3 July, the President of the Security Council made a statement.

35. At the same meeting, statements were made by Abdul Munim Al-Kadhe, Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations; Abdul Mejid Hussein, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations; Michel Kafando, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations; Jargalsaikhany Enkhsaikhan, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations; Vinci Niel Clodumar, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Group); Isaac C. Lamba, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations; Amraiya Naidu, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations; Luis Enrique Cappagli, Chargé d'affaires of Argentina to the United Nations; Stuart W. Leslie, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations; Yashar Aliyev, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations; Noureddine Mejdoub, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations; Ahmed Oun, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations; and Henri Stephan Raubenheimer (on behalf of Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo), Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations.

36. Also at the 11th meeting, the representatives of UNIDO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made statements.

37. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of ILO and the International Organization for Migration. The representative of the World Bank made a statement.

38. Also at the 11th meeting, the representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies made a statement.

39. At the same meeting, CONGO (on behalf of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) made a statement. The representatives of Médecins du Monde (International), International Scientific and

Educational "Znanie" Association, and Franciscans International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, also made statements.

Action taken by the Council

40. At the 11th meeting, on 3 July, the President of the Council introduced the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment, submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations, as contained in document E/2002/L.13. The Council then adopted the draft ministerial declaration.

41. At the same meeting, the representative of Germany raised a question and the Director, Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, replied to it.

42. Also at the 11th meeting, after the adoption of the ministerial declaration, the representatives of the United States of America, India, Japan, Australia and Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) made statements.

43. At the same meeting, the President of the Council made a concluding statement and declared closed the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2002 of the Council.

44. The text of the ministerial declaration read as follows:

Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment submitted by the President of the Council

The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development

"We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating in the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2002 of the Economic and Social Council, held from 1 to 3 July 2002, having considered the theme 'The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development', and the report of the Secretary-General on the subject,[1] as well as the contribution of civil society, inter alia, through the NGO Forum, have adopted the following declaration.

"1. We reaffirm that poverty eradication and sustainable development are the great ethical and human imperatives of our time. We reaffirm the right of everyone to education and that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

"2. We also reaffirm our commitment to the full and timely implementation of the goals, targets and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up in the areas of both health and education, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.[2]

"3. We recognize that human resources development is a fundamental aspect of poverty eradication and vital to the process of sustainable development, contributing to sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Health and education are in turn essential to human resources development and should be fully integrated into macroeconomic policies, including poverty reduction initiatives, and should accordingly be prioritized in national budgetary allocations to health and education.

"4. We recognize the important role of health and education professionals in all countries and their need to upgrade their skills. Training and retention of health and education professionals are a major challenge, in particular in developing countries.

"5. We recognize that people living in poverty must be placed at the centre of the human resources development process and encourage their participation in decision-making.

"6. We recognize that better health and education go hand in hand, with progress in one area reinforcing progress in the other. To take advantage of that synergy, a multisectoral approach is needed. The mutually beneficial effects of health, education and other capacity-building approaches for development outcomes should be explicitly considered in the actual

design and implementation of development strategies. To that end, we are committed to strengthening efforts at the national and international levels.

"7. Good governance at all levels, sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions, freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law and gender equality are all essential for progress in health and education and mutually reinforcing.

"8. We stress the need for gender mainstreaming in all human resources development policies and programmes to be able to effectively address gender inequalities. Gender equality considerations are essential to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes. Full and equal access to health care and education is fundamental for the achievement of gender equality. We reaffirm the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[3] and also in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session.[4]

"9. We also recognize that human resources development must begin with an investment in children. We call for timely and effective implementation of the declaration and plan of action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session.[5]

"10. We reaffirm the need to provide access to effective and equitable primary health-care systems in all communities. We call for the full implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, as adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session,[6] and the other internationally agreed goals and strategies on malaria and tuberculosis. The response to the epidemic must be through integrating prevention, care, support and treatment in a comprehensive approach. Recognizing that such implementation will require far greater human and financial resources (from 7 billion to 10 billion dollars targeted annually by 2005), we resolve to intensify efforts to mobilize those resources through increased allocations from national budgetary resources, increases in bilateral and multilateral assistance and the provision of substantial and additional resources to, inter alia, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Consideration should be given to launching new partnerships and initiatives in such areas as prevention through education for HIV/AIDS and partnerships for affordable essential drugs. Increased attention must be given to maternal and child health and reproductive health.

"11. We strongly encourage strategic research for and the development of necessary drugs and vaccines, particularly against diseases prevalent in developing countries. Increased investments are required in global health research and research capacity in developing countries. We encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs, including anti-retrovirals, more widely available and affordable to all who need them in developing countries. Efforts should continue to ensure improved access to medicines and affordable health systems in line with the declaration on the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and public health adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha in November 2001.

"12. We welcome the work of United Nations organizations in addressing drug-resistant malaria. We encourage the stakeholders of the Roll Back Malaria Campaign and the Stop Tuberculosis Initiative to continue and intensify their efforts and call for full international support for their work. We stress the importance of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, ongoing governmental programmes and other public-private partnerships that are effective in contributing to equitable health outcomes.

"13. We reaffirm the commitments at the World Education Forum in Dakar to the effect that no country seriously committed to Education for All will be thwarted in its achievement of that goal by lack of resources. We will continue to mobilize political and public commitment and resources for Education for All. We recommend an integrated approach reaching beyond basic education, extending from primary to higher and

technical and vocational education, and encompassing early childhood development, girls' education, adult education and lifelong learning, to maximize the impact of education on development and poverty reduction. Alternative or non-formal education can contribute in ways that complement formal education.

"14. We acknowledge that although the developing countries have the primary responsibility for the development of their human resources, the role of the international community and the multilateral institutions is essential in providing assistance in building human resources in developing countries. North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can play a significant role in meeting the challenges faced by developing countries. We strongly encourage partnership efforts aimed at advancing health and education goals.

"15. We also underline the importance of increasing the access of all people to modern means of communication and information and stress the need to improve access, thereby increasing the benefits of information and communication technologies (ICT) to people in all countries, in particular developing countries. We underline the potential role of ICT in improving health and education services. We invite the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 and 2005 to pay particular attention to bringing the benefits of ICT to people in all countries through human resources development.

"16. We call for concerted efforts to significantly increase investments in health and education with the aim of providing access to health care and education to persons living in poverty and vulnerable groups. We recognize that current levels of investment in health and education are inadequate. We urge an increase in resources from all sources to provide adequate and sustained resources for effective programmes.

"17. We recognize that a substantial increase in official development assistance (ODA) and other resources will be required to provide adequate and sustained resources for effective programmes that will improve the quality of and strengthen the necessary delivery systems for health and education. We urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15-0.20 per cent of GNP of developed countries as ODA to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and encourage developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets. Recipient and donor countries, as well as international institutions, should strive to make ODA more effective.

"18. We recognize that trade is one of the most important sources of fostering development and financing human resource development. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide. We also agree that external debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that can be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development, inter alia, in the areas of health and education. We stress the importance of facilitating access to and transfer of knowledge and technology on concessional, preferential and favourable terms to the developing countries, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries, with the objective of enhancing their technological capacities, capabilities, productivity and competitiveness in the world market.

"19. We express strong support for Africa's new initiative, entitled the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to achieve, inter alia, human resources development objectives.

"20. We recall the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, including the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development.[7]

"21. We call for further efforts to implement the commitments made for implementing the

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[8] adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels on 20 May 2001, particularly those commitments related to building human and institutional capacities.

"22. We call upon the United Nations system to strengthen its catalytic and supportive role in promoting human resources development in the areas of health and education. To that end, the United Nations system should continue and strengthen its efforts to:

"(a) Support national-, regional- and global-level efforts to integrate human resources development programmes into poverty reduction strategies on the basis of national ownership and priorities;

"(b) Help countries build institutions and local technical capacity;

"(c) Promote human resources development programmes that facilitate the access to ICT in all countries, in particular developing countries, to build digital opportunities;

"(d) Build partnerships with stakeholders based on common goals and strategies and mutual responsibility and commitment and use sector-wide approaches;

"(e) Strengthen mechanisms for disseminating knowledge and good practices for effective development cooperation in human resources development.

"23. We stress the pivotal role of the Council in maintaining the focus on implementation and financing for human resources development as part of its responsibilities in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits. We call upon the Council to mobilize and promote a coordinated action by the United Nations system for implementing the present declaration.

"24. We submit this declaration to the General Assembly as a contribution to the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit."

Notes

[1] E/2002/46.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

[5] See General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex, sects. I and III.

[6] See General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] A/CONF.191/11.